

As a journalism graduate and public relations practitioner for many years, I am especially aware of the power of the media to influence opinion. In recent years I've watched with concern the continuing consolidation of various media and the resultant narrowing of viewpoints. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest rather than what is perhaps its management's own viewpoint or bottom-line focus.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.